artment of Telecom. and the same is applicable for the entire country including Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited. This has been effected due to increased production and availability of the same at cheaper rates.

Developing Wind Power Sector

1356. SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to an article by M/s. Neelam-Mathews in "Windpower Monthly" from Denmark (October-1988) which makes out a strong case for support to their neglected non-conventional power sector; and

(b) whether Government would ensure that wind energy sector receives maximum attention in view of its great possibilities?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Department of Non-conventional Energy Sources has already taken steps to harness the potential for wind power generation in the country. Wind power projects of aggregate capacity 7.5 MW have been set up, and 14.2 million units of electricity have already been fed to the respective State grids. Another 5.0 MW capacity is under installation. Further projects of aggregate capacity 22.5 MW have been taken up for implementation. As the potential is large it is possible to achieve much higher capacity if sufficient funds are made available.

Gujarat Government's proposal for Power Generation in Private Sector

1357. SHRI RAMSINH RATHVA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering the suggestion to allow private sector companies to enter the field of power generation and/or transmission;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Goverment of Gujarat proposes to float a joint company with Reliance Industries Limited or their subsidiary power generation, if so, what are the details thereof; and

(d) whether Government have received any request from Government of Gujarat to clear such proposal, if so, what are the details thereof and what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) and (b) The policy with regard to the generation and distribution of electricity continues to be regulated by the Industrial Policy Resolution, 1956. The expansion of the existing privately owned utilities or the establishment of new units in the private sector is not precluded under the Resolution. The modalities for encouraging private sector participation in power generation are receiving the considerations of Government.

(c) and (d) No proposal has so far been received from the Government of Gujarat to float a joint company with M/s. Reliance Industries Limited or their subsidiary for power generation.

विद्युत उत्पादन की लागत

1358. सरदार जगजीत सिंह अरोड़ा : क्या ऊर्जा मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि विद्युत उत्पादन की लागत में क्रमशः वृद्धि होने के संकेत मिल रहे हैं;

(ख) यदि हां, तो पिछली पचवर्षीय योजना अवधि के दौरान इसकी लागत क्या थी;

(ग) चालू सातवीं पंचवर्षीय योजना अवधि के दौरान अब तक इसकी अनुमानित लागत क्या है;

(घ) क्या सरकार इसकी लागत को कम करने के लिये कोई कदम उठा रही है; और

(ङ) यदि हां, तो इस सम्बन्ध में ब्यौरा क्या है ?

ऊर्जा मंत्रालय में विद्युत विभाग में राज्य मंत्री (श्री कल्पनाथ राय) : (क) जी, हां ।

(ख) विद्युत उत्पादन और सप्लाई की औसत लागत जो कि 1980–81 में 41.90 पसे प्रति यूनिट थी 1984–85 में बढ़ कर 65.07 पैसे प्रति यूनिट हो गई ।

(ग) 7वीं पंचवर्षीय योजना के प्रथम तीन वर्षों के दौरान विद्युत उत्पादन और सप्लाई की औसत लागत निम्नानुसार थी :—

(पैस-प्रति यूनिट)

1985–86	1986–87	1987–88
74.59	80.22	88.58

(घ) और (ङ) बिजली के पारेषण एवं वितरण में तकनीकी तथा वाणिज्यिक हानियों को कम करने के लिये केन्द्रीय विद्युत प्राधिकरण में राज्य बिजली बोर्डों को मार्ग-दर्शी सिद्धांत जारी किये हैं । अन्य उपायों के साथ-साथ संयंत्र तथा उपस्कर में कमियों को दूर करने तथा इनके विद्युत उत्पादन में सुधार करने के लिये 34 विद्युत केंद्रों में 162 ताप विद्युत उत्पादन सैटों का नवीकरण एवं आधुनिकीकरण किये जाने के लिये एक कार्यक्रम हाथ में लिया गया है । जल विद्युत केंद्रों के नवीकरण एवं आधुनिकीकरण के लिये भी इसी प्रकार के कार्यक्रम की प्रस्तावना रखी गई है ।

Branch Post Office in Gopalpatti, Azamgarh

1359. SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some prominent people of Village Gopalpatti, P. O. Edalpur, District Azamgarh, UP sent representation in July 1988 for opening a branch post office in Village Gopalpatti;

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government thereto; and

(c) by when the branch post office is likely to be opened and start functioning there?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) A representation signed by some of residents of village Gopalpatti for opening of a post office in that village was received in July, 1988 through Shri C. Janga Reddy, Member of Parliament.

(b) On examination it was found that village Gopalpatti is situated at a distance of 2.5 kms. from Edalpur where a post office already functioning. According to the norms prescribed in rural areas no new post office is opened within 3 kms of an existing post office.

(c) Does not arise.